



US009265291B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Weber**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,265,291 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Feb. 23, 2016**

- (54) **PROTECTIVE CHAPS** 3,517,394 A \* 6/1970 Robinson ..... A41D 13/04 2/51
- (71) Applicant: **ARBORWEAR LLC**, Chagrin Falls, OH (US) 5,095,544 A \* 3/1992 Elverskog ..... 2/22  
5,375,262 A \* 12/1994 Carter ..... 2/23  
6,152,893 A 11/2000 Pigg et al.
- (72) Inventor: **William H. Weber**, Chagrin Falls, OH (US) 6,266,818 B1 7/2001 Howland et al.  
6,338,164 B1 1/2002 Howard  
6,543,055 B2 4/2003 Howland et al.  
6,658,666 B2 12/2003 Schweer
- (73) Assignee: **ARBORWEAR LLC**, Chagrin Falls, OH (US) 6,698,026 B2 3/2004 Schweer  
6,839,917 B1 \* 1/2005 Landwehr ..... A41D 13/04 2/22
- (\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 91 days. 6,892,395 B2 5/2005 Schweer  
7,926,117 B2 4/2011 Parks et al.  
8,443,937 B2 5/2013 Mordecai et al.  
2003/0079277 A1 5/2003 Gillen et al.

(Continued)

(21) Appl. No.: **14/184,824**

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 20, 2014**

RU 2 093 052 C1 10/1997  
RU 106 503 U1 7/2011

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2014/0230116 A1 Aug. 21, 2014

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

Protective Chaps on Sale in the United States Prior to Dec. 12, 2013, see photographs attached as Figs. 1,2,5,6,7.

(60) Provisional application No. 61/767,533, filed on Feb. 21, 2013.

(Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**A41D 13/05** (2006.01)

*Primary Examiner* — Anna Kinsaul

(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
CPC ..... **A41D 13/0543** (2013.01); **A41D 13/0568** (2013.01)

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Pearne & Gordon LLP

(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
CPC A41D 13/0543; A41D 17/00; A41D 31/0055  
See application file for complete search history.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

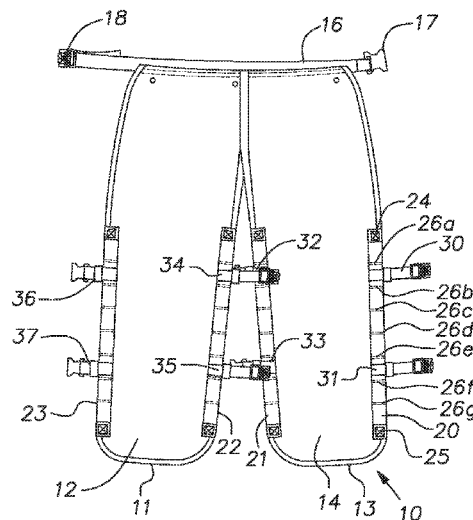
(56) **References Cited**

Protective chaps, such as chainsaw protective chaps, including a right legging, a left legging, and a waist attachment element such as a belt for attaching the chaps to the waist of a wearer. Each legging has preferably 2-5 strap units, such as straps, for securing the legging around the back of a leg of the wearer. One or more of the strap units is repositionable higher or lower on its legging to provide comfort and better fit for the wearer and so that a damaged strap unit or strap can be easily replaced.

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

1,801,437 A 4/1931 Lown et al.  
2,717,387 A \* 9/1955 McMahan ..... A41D 13/0568 2/22

**21 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets**



(56)

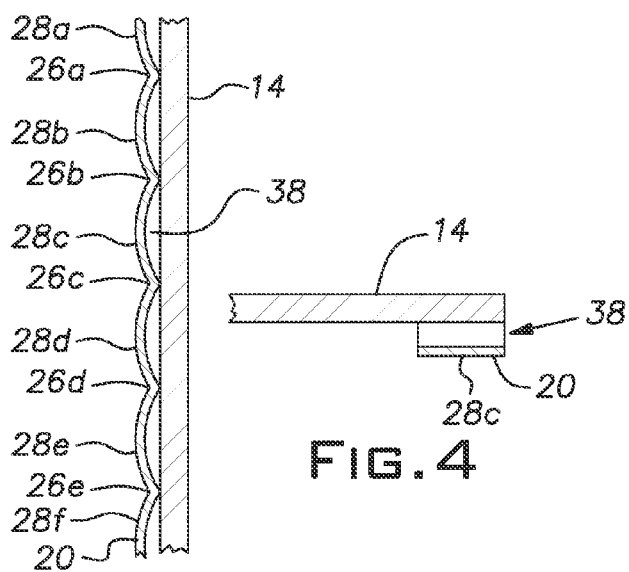
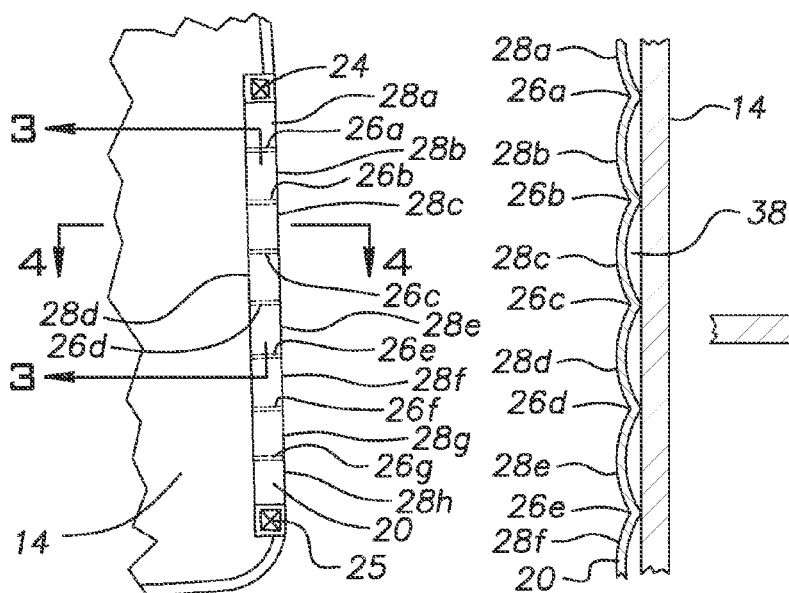
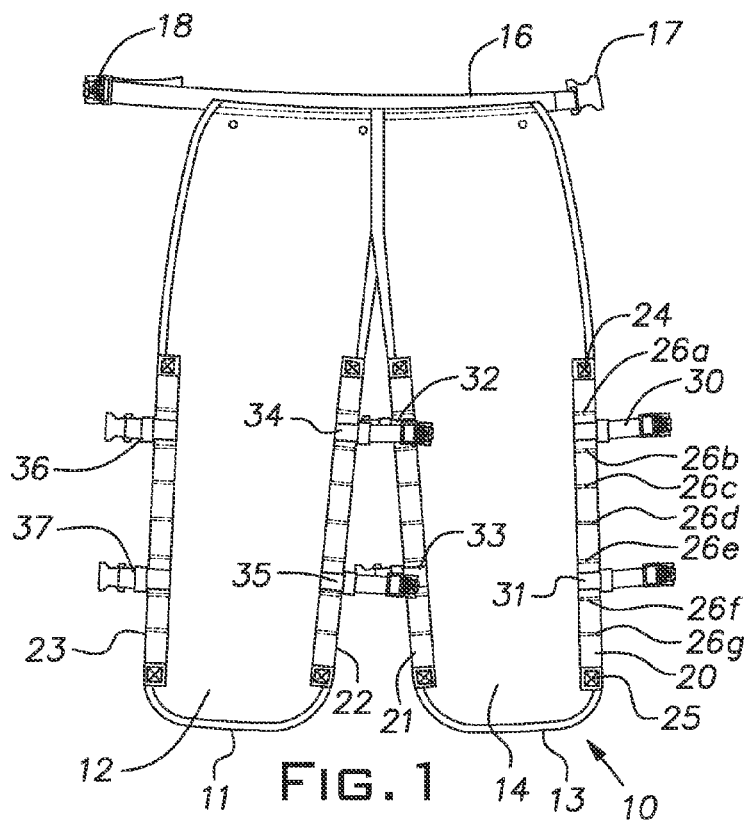
**References Cited****OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

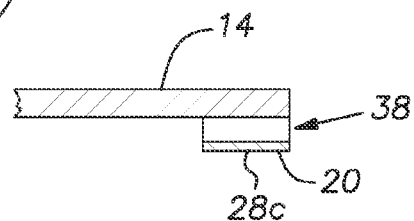
2005/0114976	A1	6/2005	Beland et al.
2006/0107435	A1	5/2006	Westcott
2009/0210990	A1	8/2009	Taylor
2011/0072545	A1	3/2011	Bennett
2011/0179553	A1	7/2011	Hazlett
2012/0272467	A1 *	11/2012	Forbes ..... 15/114

Labonville brand Chap Style #L850 (see photograph attached as Fig. 3), on sale in the United States prior to Feb. 21, 2013.  
Forrester brand Chap Style #Chap2L-G (see photograph attached as Fig. 4), on sale in the United States prior to Feb. 21, 2013.

\* cited by examiner



**FIG. 4**



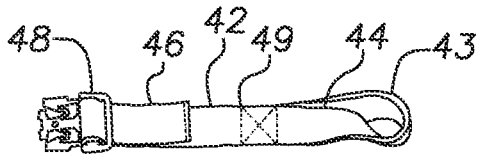


FIG. 5

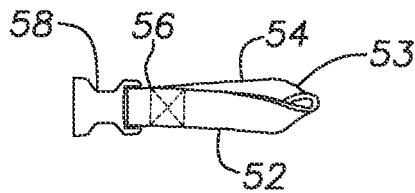


FIG. 6

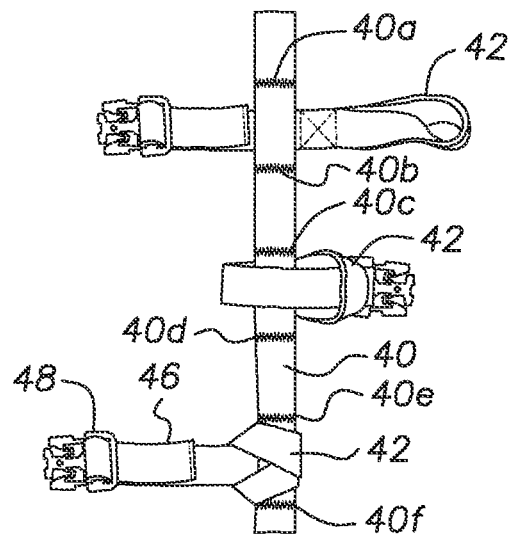


FIG. 7

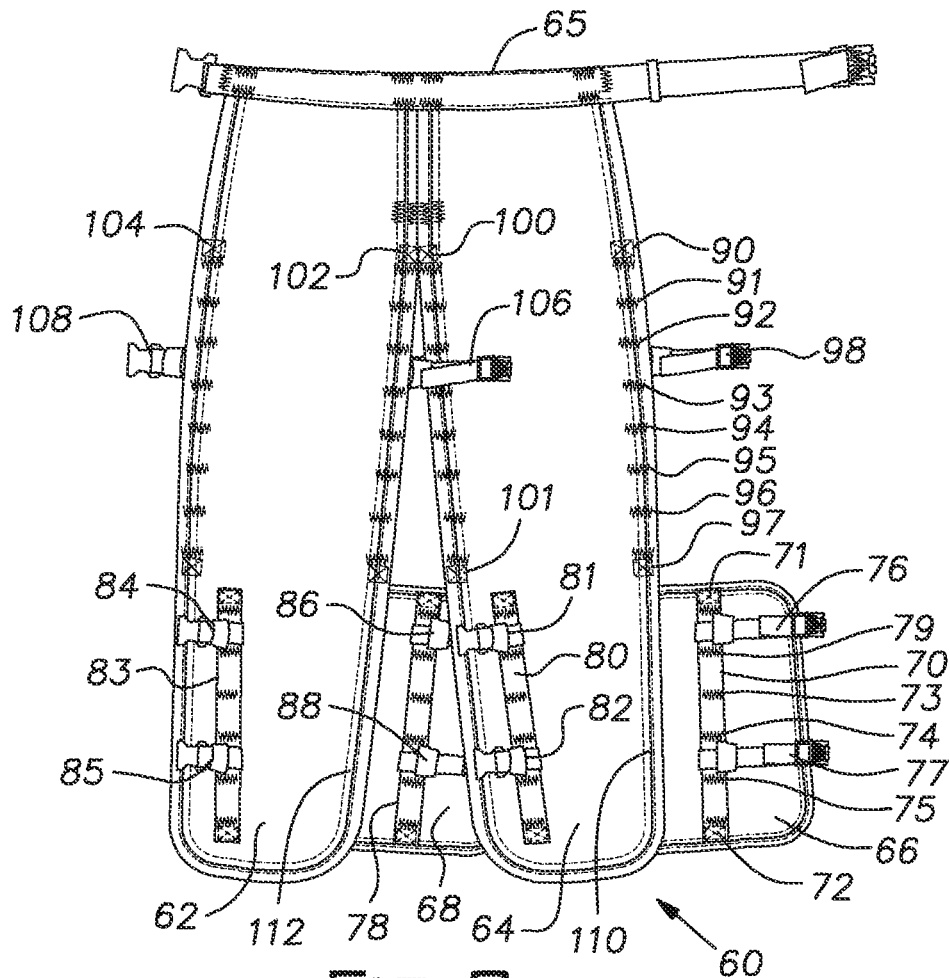


FIG. 8

1

**PROTECTIVE CHAPS****CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/767,533 filed on Feb. 21, 2013, the entire contents of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates generally to protective chaps and more particularly to protective chaps having at least one strap or strap unit per legging which goes around the back of the leg of the wearer, wherein each strap or strap unit is repositionable higher or lower on its legging.

**DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART**

Protective chaps are sturdy coverings for the legs and generally including a right legging, a left legging, and a belt. They are attached over trousers but, unlike trousers, they have no seat. They are designed to provide protection for the legs, particularly the front and sides of the leg, and are accordingly frequently made of leather or other very sturdy material.

Typically, for chaps worn by arborists, each legging is attached by wrapping and attaching two or three straps around the back of the leg of the wearer. Typically, each strap is sewn to the legging.

There are two problems with sewn-in straps. First, the vertical position of the strap on the legging is not adjustable, so that, while the strap may be correctly positioned for a short wearer, when the same chap is worn by a very tall wearer, the strap will no longer be in the correct anatomical position. Secondly, if the strap is torn off or damaged such that it can no longer be used, a new strap has to be sewn in, which is difficult, time consuming and frequently expensive.

Persons operating chainsaws, such as arborists, will frequently wear chainsaw protective chaps, that is, chaps particularly designed to protect against injury from contact with a moving chain of a chainsaw. There is a need for making the straps on protective chaps, particularly chainsaw protective chaps, vertically adjustable and easily replaceable, so that, if a strap is torn or rendered unusable, it can be easily replaced and its vertical location higher or lower on its legging easily adjusted.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Protective chaps are provided, which comprise a first or left legging, a second or right legging, and waist attachment means for attaching the chaps to the waist of a wearer, each legging having at least one strap unit for securing the legging around the back of a leg of the wearer, wherein the strap unit is repositionable higher or lower on its legging.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

FIG. 1 is an elevational view of the back side of protective chaps according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged view of the bottom-right portion of the right legging of the chaps of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 3-3 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 4-4 of FIG. 2;

2

FIG. 5 shows a strap with a male buckle used in the invention;

FIG. 6 shows a strap with a female buckle used in the invention;

FIG. 7 shows three straps in different stages of being attached to a strip of webbing; and

FIG. 8 is an elevational view of the front side of a second embodiment of protective chaps according to the invention.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION**

In the description that follows, when a preferred range, such as 5 to 25 (or 5-25) is given, this means preferably at least 5 and, separately and independently, preferably not more than 25.

As used herein and in the claims, higher or up on a legging means closer to the belt at the top of the legging; lower or down on a legging means closer to the bottom of the legging. Vertically along the legging means up and down on or along the legging.

With reference to FIG. 1, there is shown chaps or protective chaps or chainsaw protective chaps 10 including a first or right legging 14 (having a bottom 13), a second or left legging 12 (having a bottom 11) and a waist attachment means for attaching the chaps to the waist of a wearer. The waist attachment means can be a built-in and adjustable belt 16 having a female buckle 17 and a male buckle 18 as shown; less preferably the waist attachment means can be an elastic or adjustable waistband or a plurality of belt loops for receiving a removable or separate belt. Any waist attachment means known in the art can be used. Other than with respect to the webbings and straps to be discussed later, the chaps 10 are substantially conventional and as is known in the art. For example, the leggings 12, 14 can be made of leather, heavy denim, natural fiber or synthetic fiber such as nylon, polyester, etc. The leggings 12, 14 are preferably made of 1600 denier heavy duty nylon with polyurethane coating for water resistance. The chaps 10 are preferably chainsaw protective chaps which meet the standards or requirements set forth in the ASTM F1897-2008 Standard Specifications for Leg Protection for Chainsaw Users. For example, the legging material can be 8-layer blocking material as known in the art.

With reference to FIGS. 1-4, as can be seen, adjacent or at the right side or edge of legging 14 is attached a strip of webbing 20, which is preferably attached by stitching, such as X-box stitchings 24, 25 at the upper and lower ends of the webbing, respectively. Also, a bar tack or bar stitching or line of stitching 26a, 26b, 26c, 26d, 26e, 26f, 26g is provided periodically along webbing 20 so that a series of loops 28a, 28b, 28c, 28d, 28e, 28f, 28g, 28h in the webbing can be provided. Less preferably the webbing 20 can be attached by rivets. The lines of stitching 26a-g form the loops 28a-h in the webbing so that an opening 38 is formed between each loop 28a-h of the webbing 20 and the legging 14 beneath each loop 28a-h. Preferably, webbing 20 has 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 or 15 loops. As shown in FIGS. 1-3, the strip of webbing 20 runs up and down the legging 14 and is fixed to the legging 14 at a series of spaced apart fixation points 26a-g; the portion 28a-h of webbing between 2 adjacent fixation points forming a loop. As shown in FIG. 1, each strip of webbing 20-21 is located at or adjacent a lateral side of legging 14. The distance between two adjacent lines of stitching 26 (ie, the width of the loop 28) is preferably at least 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 cm; alternatively, the distance between two adjacent lines of stitching 26 (ie, the width of the loop 28) is not more than 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4,

3

4.5, 5, 5.5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 cm. The webbing **20** is preferably heavy duty nylon or other sturdy fabric or sturdy flexible material and 1 to 2 to 3 cm wide. Webbing **20** is preferably at least (or, alternatively, not more than) 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 or 60 cm long and preferably extends from near the bottom **13** of legging **14** or within 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 cm of the bottom **13** of legging **14** and preferably extends up legging **14** to at least above where the wearer's knee would be located and preferably to at least where the middle of the wearer's thigh would be located.

As shown in FIG. 1, the left side of legging **14** is provided with a strip of webbing **21** and legging **12** is provided with strips of webbing **23**, **22**. These 3 strips of webbing **21**, **22**, **23** are preferably the same as webbing **20**.

With reference to FIGS. 5-7, there are shown straps **42**, **52** which are removably and repositionably attached to the webbings **20-23** and are used to secure the legging around the back of the leg of the wearer. FIG. 5 shows a strap **42** made of a length of a strip **44** of fabric or webbing, preferably stretchable and elastic so that the strap **42** is elastic in its longitudinal direction; the length being folded back and X-box stitched at **49** to form a webbing attachment portion such as a loop end **43** and with a fastener element such as a male buckle **48** attached at the opposite end. The strap has a free end **46** looped through the buckle **48** as known in the art so that the strap **42** can be adjusted to make the at-rest overall length of the strap longer or shorter, ie, adjustable. Strap **42** is preferably adjustable such that, in at-rest condition, including the buckle, it can be shortened to 5, 10, 15 or 20 cm and lengthened to 30, 40, 50, 60 or 70 cm. The strap is preferably 1 to 2 to 3 cm wide.

FIG. 6 shows strap **52** constructed in substantially the same manner as strap **42** but preferably of a shorter or minimum length (such as 10 to 15 to 20 cm, including the buckle) and preferably without a free end so that it is non-adjustable and, when attached to the webbing **20**, the female buckle **58** extends only a short distance away from the webbing. Strap **52** is formed from a strip **54** of fabric or webbing (the same or similar material as strap **42**), having a webbing attachment portion such as a loop end **53** and a fastener element such as a female buckle **58** attached at the opposite end and preferably X-box stitched at **56**. The male and female buckles are preferably those known in the art. Alternatively, other fastener elements can be used, such as male and female snaps, button and button hole, clip (or clasp) and D-ring, or hook and loop fasteners; all of these pairs can be fastened together and unfastened without damage.

FIG. 7 illustrates how each strap **42**, **52**, is attached to the loops **28** of the webbing, such as webbings **20-23**, **40**. First, as shown at the top of FIG. 7, strap **42** is slid through opening **38** between stitchings **40a** and **40b**. Next, as shown between stitchings **40c** and **40d**, the buckle end is passed through the loop end. Finally, as shown between stitchings **40e** and **40f**, the buckle end is grabbed and pulled to cinch up or tighten the loop end around the loop of the webbing **40**. Strap **52** is attached to loops of webbing in the same way.

As shown in FIG. 1, a male strap **30** (ie, with a male buckle) and a corresponding female strap **32** (ie, with a female buckle) are attached near the top of the webbings **20**, **21**, respectively, and male strap **31** and corresponding female strap **33** have been attached lower down. To attach legging **14** to the wearer, the back side of legging **14** (shown in FIG. 1) is placed on top of the front of the trousers of the wearer's right leg and the straps **30**, **32** are wrapped around the back of the wearer's leg and the buckles clipped together; then the straps **31**, **33** are wrapped around the back of the wearer's leg and clipped together. In a similar way, the male and female straps **34**, **36**

4

are wrapped around the wearer's left leg and clipped, and the male and female straps **35**, **37** are attached around the wearer's left leg in a similar manner. FIG. 1 shows each webbing having 8 loops or openings for strap attachment. Each webbing preferably has 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 or 15 or more, loops or openings for strap attachment. Preferably, each webbing is provided with 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 straps. Depending on the wearer's preference, the straps can be easily repositioned upward or downward and removably attached to different loops in their webbing. Also, if a strap becomes torn, lost, damaged, the buckle broken, etc., the strap can be easily replaced with a replacement strap.

FIG. 8 shows the front side of a second embodiment of the invention, being protective chaps or chainsaw protective chaps **60** with calf wraps. Right legging **62**, left legging **64**, and belt or waistband **65** are the same as in chaps **10**. A flap **66** (preferably of the same material as legging **64**) extends laterally from a lower portion of the legging and is attached via stitching **110**, rivets, etc. to the lower portion of left legging **64**; alternatively, flap **66** is unitary or monolithic or integral with legging **64**. Each flap **66**, **68** is preferably 7-18 cm wide and 10-30 cm high. A strip of webbing **70**, oriented vertically, is attached to flap **66** as shown via X-box stitchings **71**, **72** and lines of stitching **79**, **73**, **74**, **75**. Webbing **70** is the same or similar as webbing **20** and is attached in the same way. Webbing **70** preferably has 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more loops between lines of stitching. 1, 2, 3 or 4 straps **76**, **77** with male buckles can be attached to the loops as shown. In a corresponding manner, a webbing **80**, the same or similar as webbing **70**, can be fixed to the front side of left legging **64**, preferably at or near the left hand edge/side as shown. For example, webbing **80** can be attached at the left edge or can be moved back from the edge a short distance, for example, not more than 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 cm. For every male strap/buckle **76**, **77** attached to webbing **70**, a corresponding female strap/buckle **81**, **82** is attached to webbing **80**. In a corresponding manner, right legging **62** is provided (via stitching **112**) with a flap **68** having webbing **78** and straps **86**, **88**, and the bottom of right legging **62** is provided with webbing **83** having straps **84** and **85**. The webbing and straps for the flaps are preferably the same as the webbing and straps described above for FIG. 1. The straps on and for the flaps are repositionable and are used to secure the flap around the ankle/calf area to form a calf wrap.

As partially illustrated in the top 2/3 of FIG. 8, the back side of legging **64** is provided with webbings and straps corresponding to the webbings and straps attached to the back side of legging **12** of FIG. 1. For example, the upper right side of legging **64** shows X-box stitchings **90**, **97** (attaching a webbing, not shown) which correspond to the X-box stitchings at the top and bottom of webbing **23** in FIG. 1. Lines of stitching **91-96** correspond to the lines of stitching in webbing **23** of FIG. 1. Strap **98** of FIG. 8 corresponds with strap **36** of FIG. 1. X-box stitchings **100**, **101** in FIG. 8 are used to attach a webbing (not shown) to the back side of legging **64**, corresponding to webbing **22** of FIG. 1. The two webbings (not shown) on the back side of the upper portion of legging **64**, with their straps (preferably with as many straps as webbings **22-23**), are the same as the webbings and straps **22**, **23**, **34-37** of FIG. 1. The back side of the upper portion of legging **62** is provided with webbings and straps the same as legging **64**. The chaps **60** are attached to the wearer the same way as the chaps **10** are attached, but also with the flaps **66**, **68** attached.

Less preferably, the webbings such as **20-23**, **70**, **80**, **78**, **83** can be fixed to the leggings via rivets, heat welding, adhesive, buttons, clips, or other means known in the art, located where the stitchings **26a-h**, **79**, **73**, etc. are located.

5

Less preferably, one or more of the webbings (such as both webbings **20, 21**) can be replaced with (a) a row of fasteners (such as snaps (male or female), buckles (male or female), buttons, rings for a clip, etc.) fixed to the legging and spaced apart like the stitchings **26a-h**, or (b) a strip of Velcro-like hook and loop fastener extending up and down as long as the webbing. The ends of the straps would be modified accordingly; for example, if a webbing is replaced with a row of female snaps, the ends of the straps to be attached thereto would be provided with a male snap. If the webbing is replaced with a strip of Velcro-like loop fastener, the ends of the straps to be attached thereto would be provided with Velcro-like hook fastener.

#### Alternatives for Loop Ends

Alternatively, if webbing **20-23** is used, the ends of the straps can be attached thereto by means or fasteners other than the loop ends **43, 53** described above. For example, the loop end **43, 53** can be replaced with (a) a strip which is part hook fastener and part loop fastener, so it can be slid under the loop **28**, folded back on itself and Velcroed in place, or (b) a strip having (1) a pair of snaps (male and female) or (2) a button and button hole or (3) a pair of buckles (male and female), spaced 6-10 cm apart, so it can be slid under the loop **28**, folded back on itself and snapped or buttoned or buckled in place.

As described above, when a pair of straps **42, 52** is used between a pair of webbings such as **20, 21**, male and female buckles **48, 58** are used to fasten the straps together. Less preferably, the male and female buckles can be replaced with other fastener element pairs as known in the art, such as male and female snaps, button and button hole, clip (or clasp) and D-ring, hook and loop fastener, belt buckle with prong and belt with a hole or row of holes for the buckle prong, belt end and belt buckle with sliding friction bar to grip the belt, etc.

Alternatively, one strap can be used instead of a pair of straps **42, 52**. For example, if webbings **20, 21** are used, a single strap between them can be used, wherein each end of the strap is provided with a fastener as described in the paragraph above entitled "Alternatives For Loop Ends". Such a single strap can furthermore be made adjustable in length as follows. One end can be provided with a strip wherein the last 2 cm is Velcro hook fastener and the next, adjacent 30 cm is Velcro loop fastener. The strip can be slid under the loop **28**, folded back on itself and Velcroed in place at different locations on the loop portion to adjust the overall length. The same effect can be achieved by putting a male snap at the end of the strip, and adjacent thereto a row of 15 female snaps spaced out one every 2 cm. The male snap portion is slid under the loop **28**, folded back on the strip and snapped to one of the 15 female snaps. If one webbing **20** is used and webbing **21** is replaced with (a) a row of snaps or (b) a strip of Velcro hook and loop fastener as described above, one strap can be used as follows. Strap **42** is used, attached via loop end **43** to webbing **20** and buckle **48** is replaced with (a) a snap (to snap into the row of snaps) or (b) a hook/loop fastener strip (to Velcro attach to the strip of Velcro hook/loop fastener). If both webbings **20, 21** are replaced with a strip of Velcro loop fastener, one strap can be used by putting a strip of hook fastener at each end, one of which is extra long to make the strap overall length adjustable.

A strap unit is what attaches 2 corresponding webbings, such as webbings **20, 21** (or the alternatives thereto described above, ie, a row of snaps or a strip of Velcro hook and loop fastener), together. As shown in FIG. 1, straps **30** and **32** form a strap unit; straps **31** and **33** form a strap unit; in FIG. 8, straps **77** and **82** form a flap strap unit. Strap **30** is a portion of the strap unit formed by straps **30** and **32**. A strap unit can be a

6

single strap, such as when the strap has Velcro hook and loop fastener at each end as described above and can, by itself, attach two webbings (such as **20, 21**) together.

As can be seen in the Figures, each strap unit and flap strap unit is vertically repositionable higher or lower on its legging or flap; for example, strap unit **31, 33** or strap unit **30, 32** can be repositioned upwardly or downwardly at different loops **28** along the webbings **20, 21**; flap strap unit **77** and **82** can be repositioned up or down or higher or lower along the webbings **70, 80**. Straps which are sewn to a legging are not removably or repositionably attached, because they are intended to be permanently attached. A strap which is sewn to a chap cannot be removed without damage or destruction, since, to remove it, the stitchings must be cut or torn, or the strap itself must be cut or torn. Straps which are attached as described above via loop ends **43, 53**, via buckles, snaps, buttons/button holes, and Velcro hook and loop fasteners, are removably and repositionably attached because they can be removed and repositioned or replaced without destruction or damage. The repositionability allows a wearer to adjust the position of the strap units for comfort or better fit, and allows for adjustment when a chap is worn by a second wearer who has longer or shorter legs than a first wearer.

As shown in FIG. 8, each strip of webbing **70, 80, 78, 83** extends up and down its respective legging or flap, and webbing **80** is located across from webbing **70**.

A sawyer or arborist or worker can use the protective chaps by putting on the protective chaps, grabbing ahold of a chainsaw, and using the chainsaw to cut a limb or trunk of the tree.

While the invention has been described with reference to the preferred embodiments, it is understood that various changes can be made and equivalents may be substituted for elements thereof without departing from the scope of the invention.

#### What is claimed is:

1. Protective chaps comprising a first legging, a second legging, and waist attachment means for attaching the chaps to a waist of a wearer; each legging having at least one strap unit for securing the respective legging around the back of a leg of the wearer, wherein each strap unit is repositionable higher or lower on its legging, wherein each legging includes at least 3 loops, the first loop being located higher on its legging than the second loop, the second loop being located higher on its legging than the third loop, at least a portion of said strap unit of said first legging being (a) distinct from and (b) removably attached to, one of said 3 loops of said first legging, at least a portion of said strap unit of said second legging being removably attached to one of said 3 loops of said second legging, wherein when said at least a portion of said strap unit of said first legging is removed from said one of said 3 loops of said first legging, said one of said 3 loops of said first legging remains attached to said first legging, wherein each legging is provided with a first strip of webbing extending vertically along the legging and being fixed to the legging at a series of spaced apart fixation points, wherein, with respect to each legging, each of said 3 loops of said legging being formed by a respective portion of said first strip of webbing between 2 adjacent fixation points.

2. The protective chaps according to claim 1, wherein each legging is provided with a second strip of webbing extending vertically along the legging and being fixed to the legging at a series of spaced apart fixation points, each respective portion of said second strip of webbing between 2 adjacent fixation points forming a loop, wherein, with respect to each legging, the first strip of webbing is located at or adjacent a

first lateral side of the legging and the second strip of webbing is located at or adjacent a second, opposite, lateral side of the legging.

3. The protective chaps according to claim 1, wherein each legging includes 3-15 loops located vertically along the legging.

4. The protective chaps according to claim 1, each loop having a width, the width of each loop being 1 to 10 cm.

5. The protective chaps according to claim 1, each loop having a width, the width of each loop being 2 to 6 cm.

6. The protective chaps according to claim 1, wherein each legging has at least 2 strap units, with respect to each legging, each of the strap units includes a first strap having a webbing attachment portion at a first end and a fastener element at or adjacent an opposite end, each said first strap being removably attached to a different loop of the first strip of webbing.

7. The protective chaps according to claim 2, wherein each legging has at least 2 strap units, with respect to each legging, each of the first and second straps having a webbing attachment portion at a first end and a fastener element at or adjacent an opposite end, each said first strap webbing attachment portion being removably attached to a different loop of the first strip of webbing, each said second strap webbing attachment portion being removably attached to a different loop of the second strip of webbing.

8. The protective chaps according to claim 6, wherein each first strap has an at-rest overall length which is adjustable.

9. The protective chaps according to claim 6, wherein each first strap is elastic in its longitudinal direction.

10. The protective chaps according to claim 7, wherein, with respect to each strap unit, the first strap fastener element and the second strap fastener element can be fastened together and unfastened without damage.

11. The protective chaps according to claim 10, wherein the first strap fastener element is a male buckle and the second strap fastener element is a female buckle.

12. The protective chaps according to claim 1, the first legging comprising a first flap extending laterally from a lower portion thereof, the second legging comprising a second flap extending laterally from a lower portion thereof, the lower portion of each legging having at least one flap strap unit for securing its respective flap around a lower portion of the wearer's leg.

13. The protective chaps according to claim 12, wherein each flap strap unit is repositionable higher or lower on its legging.

14. The protective chaps according to claim 13, wherein each flap is provided with a third strip of webbing extending vertically along the flap and being fixed to the flap at a series of spaced apart fixation points, each respective portion of said third strip of webbing between 2 adjacent fixation points forming a loop.

15. The protective chaps according to claim 14, wherein each legging is provided with a fourth strip of webbing extending vertically along the legging and being fixed to the legging at a series of spaced apart fixation points, each respective portion of said fourth strip of webbing between 2 adjacent fixation points forming a loop, wherein, with respect to each legging, the fourth strip of webbing is located across from the third strip of webbing.

16. The protective chaps according to claim 15, wherein, with respect to each legging, the flap strap unit includes a first strap and a second strap, each of the first and second straps having a webbing attachment portion at a first end and a fastener element at or adjacent an opposite end, each said first strap webbing attachment portion being removably attached

to a different loop of the third strip of webbing, each said second strap webbing attachment portion being removably attached to a different loop of the fourth strip of webbing.

17. The protective chaps according to claim 16, wherein, with respect to each flap strap unit, the first strap fastener element and the second strap fastener element can be fastened together and unfastened without damage.

18. The protective chaps according to claim 17, wherein the first strap fastener element is a male buckle and the second strap fastener element is a female buckle.

19. The protective chaps according to claim 1, wherein the protective chaps are chainsaw protective chaps meeting the requirements of ASTM F1897-2008.

20. A method of cutting a tree, comprising the following steps:

(a) putting on a pair of protective chaps;

(b) grabbing ahold of a chainsaw; and

(c) using the chainsaw to cut a limb or trunk of the tree;

wherein said protective chaps comprise a first legging, a second legging, and waist attachment means for attaching the chaps to a waist of a wearer; each legging having at least one strap unit for securing the respective legging around the back of a leg of the wearer, wherein each strap unit is repositionable higher or lower on its legging, wherein each legging includes at least 3 loops, the first loop being located higher on its legging than the second loop, the second loop being located higher on its legging than the third loop, at least a portion of said strap unit of said first legging being (a) distinct from and (b) removably attached to, one of said 3 loops of said first legging, at least a portion of said strap unit of said second legging being removably attached to one of said 3 loops of said second legging, wherein when said at least a portion of said strap unit of said first legging is removed from said one of said 3 loops of said first legging, said one of said 3 loops of said first legging remains attached to said first legging, wherein each legging is provided with a first strip of webbing extending vertically along the legging and being fixed to the legging at a series of spaced apart fixation points, wherein, with respect to each legging, each of said 3 loops of said legging being formed by a respective portion of said first strip of webbing between 2 adjacent fixation points.

21. Protective chaps comprising a first legging, a second legging, and waist attachment means for attaching the chaps to a waist of a wearer; each legging having at least one strap unit for securing the respective legging around the back of a leg of the wearer, wherein each strap unit can be removed from its legging without damage or destruction, wherein each legging includes at least 3 loops, the first loop being located higher on its legging than the second loop, the second loop being located higher on its legging than the third loop, at least a portion of said strap unit of said first legging being (a) distinct from and (b) removably attached to, one of said 3 loops of said first legging, at least a portion of said strap unit of said second legging being removably attached to one of said 3 loops of said second legging, wherein when said at least a portion of said strap unit of said first legging is removed from said one of said 3 loops of said first legging, said one of said 3 loops of said first legging remains attached to said first legging, wherein each legging is provided with a first strip of webbing extending vertically along the legging and being fixed to the legging at a series of spaced apart fixation points, wherein, with respect to each legging, each of said 3 loops of said legging being formed by a respective portion of said first strip of webbing between 2 adjacent fixation points.